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OPEN LETTERS.

A CORRECTION.

IN the June number of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE (31:441) there was published by Ernst A. Bessey, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, a review of *Bulletin* 49 of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station entitled *A rhizomorphic root-rot of fruit trees*. The reviewer made the statement that "This has been shown by von Schrenk and others to be caused, in all probability, by a hitherto unidentified rhizomorph-producing fungus." The reviewer having failed, on request, to cite references to these publications of "von Schrenk and others" in support of his statements, and having thought it "inadvisable" to correct the same when asked to do so, the following brief statements are submitted for the information of those interested.

November 6, 1889, von Schrenk identified the fungus in question as "one of the most dangerous tree fungi known, *Agaricus melleus*." (Letter to Horticulturist of the Okl. Agr. Exp. Sta.) Some more of the same material was submitted to Dr. B. T. Galloway, and under date of November 10, 1899, Dr. Galloway stated that "the fungus is the edible mushroom, *Armillaria mellea*." (Letter to Horticulturist Okla. Agr. Exp. Sta.) In the *Orange Judd Farmer* for January 12, 1901, von Schrenk says, "I suspect that possibly the fungus when determined will prove to be the same as a fungus very common in both Europe and America, the *Agaricus melleus*, or honey mushroom." This last statement is quoted in the *Bulletin* of this Station above referred to.

These statements will show clearly the state of the investigations of "von Schrenk and others" at the time stated. Perhaps in the future we shall have from these sources some valuable publications regarding this subject, but at present none such exists to my knowledge. It is hoped the above explanations will clear away some misconceptions and prevent the inference that this disease had already been investigated by members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture.

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